INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

No. 1000 — Washington, D. C. — August 26, 1944

SURPLUS PROPERTY BILL APPROVED BY THE HOUSE

Senate Now Debating Its Own Measure as Reported by the Military Affairs Committee

Both the House and Senate during the last week pressed forward on surplus property and reconversion legislation. The House on August 22 passed the Colmer Bill (H. R. 5125) with numerous amendments and prepared to consider the George reconversion bill (S. 2051). At the same time, the Senate began on August 23 to debate the Stewart Bill (S. 2065), favorably reported by the Senate Military Affairs Committee on August 22.

Both the House and Senate versions of proposed surplus property legislation retain substantially the basic structure reported in last week's INFORMATION LETTER (p. 8347). Despite numerous attempts to modify the broad delegation of powers to a single administrator, some of which were successful, the Colmer Bill would leave a wide field of almost uncontrolled activity to the Surplus Property Administrator. The Senate bill, on the other hand, as reported by the Senate Military Affairs Committee, was amended by the Committee to eliminate control of surplus property by a single administrator, and to provide that this job should be handled by an eight-man Surplus Property Board acting under more definite restrictions than those contained in the House-approved Colmer Bill. This is perhaps the most important single difference between the two bills. W. L. Clayton, present Surplus Property Administrator acting under Executive orders, is reported to favor the Colmer Bill.

Without a record vote and without extended debate, the House defeated an amendment offered by Reperesentative Wickersham of Oklahoma, sponsor of proposed separate legislation for surplus food (see INFORMATION LETTER, No. 999, p. 8347), to require that all disposal of surplus food under the bill must be under the exclusive control of the War Food Administration. This would have made the WFA practically independent of the Surplus Property Administrator and would have coincided with the previously proposed separate legislation for surplus food.

No particularly cogent reasons for rejection of the amendment were stated in debate. Perhaps the most important stated argument was that the WFA had no agents in foreign countries to dispose of surplus food now in those countries.

In contrast to the House action, the Senate bill under debate as the LETTER goes to press contains a provision almost identical in substance to the Wickersham amendment. The Senate provision reads:

> "Sec. 15 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or of any other Act or of any Executive order, the War Food Administrator or his successor, shall be solely responsible for the formulation of policies and the carrying out of programs with respect to the disposal of surplus agricultural commodities. The War Food Administrator or his successor, subject to the provisions of existing law, shall formulate workable plans for the disposition of surplus agricul-

(Continued on page 8360)

WPB EASES RESTRICTIONS ON INSTALLING EQUIPMENT

Installations or Relocations up to $25,000 Now Allowed without Approval under L-41

Provisions pertaining to equipment installations and the installation or relocation of machinery as controlled by Construction Conservation Order L-41 have been modified, the War Production Board reported August 21.

These changes were made by amendment to Conservation Order L-41, amendment to Direction 2 to Order L-41, Interpretation 10 of Order L-41, and amendment to Direction 15 to Controlled Materials Plan Regulation No. 5, issued simultaneously August 19, 1944.

Under amendments to Order L-41 and to Direction 2 of the same order, any person may install, without WPB approval under L-41, a single piece of ma-

(Continued on page 8358)

MAXIMUM PRICES FOR 1944 PACK OF CANNED APRICOTS PROCESSED IN CALIFORNIA ARE ESTABLISHED BY OPA

Appendix to Supplement 7, Effective August 23—Prices for Other States to Come Later

Maximum prices for the 1944 pack of canned apricots processed in Area 1, California, are contained in Appendix B of Section 16 of Supplement 7 to Food Price Regulation 1, issued and made effective August 23, 1944, by the Office of Price Administration. Prices for apricots packed in other States will be announced later.

The permitted increases and the price ranges for No. 2½ and No. 10 cans shown in Table 3 may be used by canners to establish their 1944 ceiling prices for any item shown, provided sales were made during the base period and a base price can be established. The ceiling price will be computed by adding the permitted increase to the base price, which is the weighted average selling price for the first 60 days after the beginning of the 1941 pack. If the result of this addition gives a figure that comes within the appropriate price range no adjustment is necessary. If, however, it is higher than the upper limit of the price range, it must be adjusted to the highest price of the range; if lower, it may be adjusted to the bottom price of the range. The maximum prices thus established will be for sales to the civilian trade.

The maximum prices on government sales will be 96 per cent of the ceiling price as established above.

If a canner made *no sales* of canned apricots during the base period his gross ceiling will be the middle of the price range for each item. If a canner sold *some but not all items* of canned apricots during the base period, he may fill in the blanks in his price list by conversions from prices which he can establish. In making such conversions, the steps to be taken in figuring maximum prices should be made in the following order:

(1) Convert for container size; (2) add the permitted increase for the style of pack and grade of packed apricots sold in the base period; (3) convert for grade; (4) convert for style of pack; (5) convert for syrup differential; (6) apply the limitations of the price range; (7) convert for grade; (8) convert for

(Continued on page 8359)

CALIFORNIA SWEET CHERRY PRICES ARE ISSUED BY OPA

Method of Computing Ceilings Similar to that Used for Apricots

Maximum prices for the 1944 pack of canned sweet cherries processed in Area 1 (California), are contained in Appendix C of Section 16 of Supplement 7 to Food Price Regulation 1, effective August 28, issued by the Office of Price Administration. Prices for sweet cherries in other States will be announced later.

The method of calculating maximum prices for canned sweet cherries is, in general, the same as that to be followed for canned apricots (see page 8357 of the INFORMATION LETTER). In figuring maximum prices for sweet cherries where conversions are necessary, the conversions should be made in the following order: (1) Convert for container size; (2) add the permitted increase for the grade of packed sweet cherries sold in the base period; (3) convert for grade; (4) convert for syrup differential; (5) apply the limitations of the price range; (6) convert for grade; (7) convert for syrup differential; (8) convert for container type and size.

Conversions from tin to glass are the same as for apricots. The maximum price for No. 2½ glass is 20 cents per dozen more than for No. 2½ cans, and for 303 glass it is 30 cents less than for No. 2½ glass.

TABLE 6. PERMITTED INCREASES AND PRICE RANGES PER DOZEN CONTAINERS FOR PROCESSORS OF PACKED SWEET CHERRIES WHO MADE SALES DURING THE BASE PERIOD

Style and grade	No. 2½ cans		No. 10 cans	
Light, unpitted:	Permitted increase	Price ranges	Permitted increase	Price ranges
Fancy	$1.13	$3.59–$3.69	$4.08	$13.13–$13.25
Choice	1.05	3.39– 3.55	3.79	11.78– 12.34
Standard	.96	3.17– 3.25	3.49	11.11– 11.49
Water	.....	.....	1.72	5.52– 6.02

TABLE 5. CONVERSION FACTORS—METAL CONTAINERS

To convert from a can size in this column	To a can size listed at the head of a column below, multiply by the appropriate conversion factor			
	No. 1 Tall	No. 2	No. 2½	No. 10
No. 1 Tall	.....	.....	1.71	5.89
No. 2	.....	.....	1.36	4.76
No. 2½	.58	.74	1.00	3.45
No. 10	.17	.21	.29	1.00

TABLE 7. SYRUP DIFFERENTIALS

If you pack fruit in syrup of which the density does not correspond to the grade of the fruit, subtract the differential stated below for the grade from the prices computed from Table 3 or 4 and add to the resulting figures the differential for the syrup you do use. Differentials are stated in dollars per dozen containers.

Syrup	No. 2½	No. 10
Extra Heavy (Fancy)	$0.10	$0.71
Heavy (Choice)	.14	.51
Light (Standard)	.09	.33
Slightly Sweetened Water (Substandard)	.04	.....

The density of the syrup referred to above is defined as follows:

"Extra heavy syrup" means syrup having a cut-out density of 25°–35° Brix.

"Heavy syrup" means syrup having a cut-out density of 20°–25° Brix.

"Light syrup" means syrup having a cut-out density of 16°–20° Brix.

"Slightly sweetened water" means water or fluid having a cut-out density of less than 16° Brix.

TABLE 8. GRADE DIFFERENTIALS—DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SUCCESSIVE GRADES (DOLLARS PER DOZEN CONTAINERS)

Style and grade	No. 2½ cans	No. 10 cans
Light, unpitted:		
Fancy and Choice	$0.27	$1.13
Choice and Standard	.36	.70
Standard and Water	.....	5.08

WFA to Sell Orange Juice

The War Food Administration is offering for sale 11,249 cases of orange juice to all processors of this product. This is the remainder of the 27,000 cases of orange juice recently offered to the original processors. The quantities offered and where they are located follows: 2,117 cases (6/10's) Fancy—Savannah, Ga.; 3,103 cases (6/10's) Fancy—Richmond, Va.; and 6,029 cases (12/46 oz.) Standard—Atlanta, Ga. Closing date for offers to purchase is August 31.

1944 Cranberry Crop Is Small

The U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics has reported that the 1944 cranberry crop, based on indications as of August 16, will be about 444,800 barrels (100 lbs.), or 35 per cent smaller than the 1943 crop of 680,900 barrels (100 lbs.) and 30 per cent smaller than the 10-year average (1933-42). This year's cranberry crop as now indicated will be the smallest in 23 years, BAE said.

WPB EASES RESTRICTIONS

(Continued from page 8357)

chinery or a group of related pieces of processing machinery or equipment approved by WPB on a special application form if the total cost of the entire installation, including the cost of the equipment, does not exceed $25,000 and if the cost of the job, not counting the cost of the equipment, does not exceed $5,000.

Prior to the issuance of these amendments, only industrial plants having a productive floor area of 10,000 square feet or more could install machinery without WPB approval under L-41, and then only when the cost of the materials used in installing the machinery did not exceed $500 per unit installed. Building alterations necessary to installations may be made, but no new buildings or additions to buildings are permitted, WPB officials said.

Under Interpretation 10 to Order L-41, if the cost of the installation exceeds the designated cost limits, permission under Order L-41 is required even though the equipment has been obtained on Form WPB-541 or Form WPB-542, the WPB explained.

Regulations applicable to the relocation of equipment as covered in the amendment to Direction 2 now apply to any factory or industrial plant. Formerly, these provisions applied only to factories or plants having a productive floor area of 10,000 square feet or more. The former $500 cost limit for materials to be used in the relocation of any one piece of machinery or equipment has been retained.

Heretofore, the cost of processing equipment was not counted in figuring the cost of the job in determining the necessity for WPB permission under the terms of L-41. Certain large industrial plants were permitted, under certain conditions, to install any number of single or related pieces of processing machinery if the cost of the installation materials used for each machine did not exceed $500. These provisions are changed by the establishment of $25,000 cost limit.

Direction 15 to CMP Regulation 5 was amended to permit persons engaged in a business designed by this regulation to use their Maintenance, Repair and Operating Supplies symbol and rating to obtain materials for work permitted by the amended Direction 2 to L-41. Where no construction is involved, the amendment to Direction 15 to CMP Regulation 5 also permits such persons to use their MRO symbol and rating to obtain up to $500 of materials to be used in installing equipment obtained on a special application form.

Taylor to Join N. C. A. Staff

Lee A. Taylor, Secretary of the Association of New York State Canners, will join the staff of the National Canners Association on October 1 as Secretary of the N. C. A. Planning Committee. Mr. Taylor brings to this position not only considerable experience in general trade association work, but also an intimate acquaintance with canners and the canning industry gained through six years service with the New York Association.

Processors Earn "A" Awards

Cited for outstanding performance in the processing of food, the War Food Administration's achievement "A" will be presented to the following food processing plants:

Black & Gay, plants at Brooks and Thomaston, Me.; Everitt Packing Co., Underwood, Ind.; Libby, McNeill & Libby, Hartford, Wis.; Rockfield Canning Co., plants at Granville and Jackson, Wis.; Libby, McNeill & Libby, plants at Sacramento and Sunnyvale, Calif.; Matmor Canning Co., Inc., Woodland, Calif.; Mission Valley Canning Co., San Jose, Calif; Rogers Canning Co., plants at Athena and Milton, Ore.; Bozeman Canning Co., plants at Ellensburg, Monroe, Mt. Vernon, and Waitsburg, Wash.; and National Fruit Canning Company, Chehalis, Wash.

CANNED APRICOT PRICES

(Continued from page 8357)

style of pack; (9) convert for syrup differential; (10) convert for container type and size.

The term "grade" as used above refers to the grade of the fruit with a syrup density which corresponds to the grade of the fruit. Syrup differentials are provided where the product is packed in syrup of a density that does not correspond to the grade of the fruit.

The conversions from tin to glass containers must be made in the 1944 prices and not in the base period prices. Even though a processor packed the item in glass during the base period he must first construct a 1944 maximum price for the item when packed in tin and then apply the appropriate conversion factor. The maxium price for No. 2½ glass is 20 cents per dozen higher than that for No. 2½ cans, and for 303 glass 30 cents per dozen less than the price for No. 2½ cans. In figuring prices using grade differentials the base price for Choice apricots where available shall be used to figure maximum prices for Fancy and Standard grades. In other cases the differential between the item being priced and the nearest grade should be used.

Tables 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9 of the Appendix are reproduced on this page. Tables 1, 2, 4 and 6 are omitted since the subject matter has been covered in the foregoing discussion.

The Appendix in complete form will be mailed, as soon as available, to California apricot canners.

TABLE 3. PERMITTED INCREASES AND PRICE RANGES PER DOZEN CONTAINERS FOR PROCESSORS OF PACKED APRICOTS WHO MADE SALES DURING THE BASE PERIOD

Style and grade	No. 2½ cans		No. 10 cans	
	Permitted increase	Price ranges	Permitted increase	Price ranges
Halves, unpeeled:				
Fancy	$0.95	$2.81–$2.90	$3.26	$9.55–$10.11
Choice	.84	2.51– 2.67	2.86	8.63– 9.05
Standard	.73	2.07– 2.30	2.51	7.64– 8.08
Seconds	.68	2.04– 2.12	.....	.....
Water	.64	1.92– 2.00	2.16	6.24– 6.00
Solid pack pie	....	.....	3.26	8.73– 9.47
Whole, unpeeled:				
Fancy	.74	2.25– 2.45	2.71	7.99– 8.31
Choice	.68	1.99– 2.15	2.34	6.75– 7.35
Standard	.54	1.72– 1.82	2.03	6.11– 6.45
Whole, peeled:				
Fancy	.96	2.71– 2.97	3.47	9.43– 10.01
Choice	.84	2.39– 2.61	3.04	8.23– 9.13
Standard	.72	2.15– 2.27	2.61	7.47– 7.87

TABLE 5. CONVERSION FACTORS—METAL CONTAINERS

To convert from a can size in this column	To a can size listed at the head of a column below, multiply by the appropriate conversion factor:			
	No. 1 Tall	No. 2	No. 2½	No. 10
No. 1 Tall	.....	.....	1.61	5.48
No. 2	.....	.....	1.27	4.30
No. 2½	.62	.79	1.00	3.40
No. 10	.18	.23	.29	1.00

TABLE 7. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN STYLES (DOLLARS PER DOZEN CONTAINERS)

To convert from a style in this column	To a style listed at the head of a column below add (or subtract as indicated) the stated difference:					
	No. 2½ cans			No. 10 cans		
	Halves, unpeeled	Whole, peeled	Whole, unpeeled	Halves, unpeeled	Whole, peeled	Whole, unpeeled
Halves, unpeeled	$0.00	−$0.07	−$0.57	$0.00	−$0.11	−$1.72
Whole, peeled	+ .07	0.00	− .48	+ .11	0.00	− 1.54
Whole, unpeeled	+ .57	+ .48	0.00	+ 1.72	+ 1.54	0.00

TABLE 8. SYRUP DIFFERENTIALS

If you pack fruit in syrup of which the density does not correspond to the grade of the fruit, subtract the differential stated below for the grade from the prices computed from Table 3 or 4 and add to the resulting figures the differential for the syrup you do use. The differentials are stated in dollars and cents per dozen container.

Syrup	No. 2½ cans			No. 10 cans		
	Halves, unpeeled	Whole, unpeeled	Whole, peeled	Halves, unpeeled	Whole, unpeeled	Whole, peeled
Extra Heavy (Fancy)	$0.27	$0.31	$0.27	$0.99	$1.03	$0.96
Heavy (Choice)	.19	.22	.19	.67	.70	.65
Light (Standard)	.11	.12	.11	.39	.41	.38
Slightly Sweetened Water (Substandard)	.04	.04	.04	.....	.....	.....

The density of the syrup referred to above is defined as follows:
"Extra heavy syrup" means syrup having a cut-out density of 25°–40° Brix.
"Heavy syrup" means syrup having a cut-out density of 21°–25° Brix.
"Light syrup" means syrup having a cut-out density of 16°–21° Brix.
"Slightly sweetened water" means water or fluid having a cut-out density of less than 16° Brix.

TABLE 9. GRADE DIFFERENTIALS (DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SUCCESSIVE GRADES IN DOLLARS PER DOZEN CONTAINERS)

	No. 2½ cans			No. 10 cans		
	Halves, unpeeled	Whole, unpeeled	Whole, peeled	Halves, unpeeled	Whole, unpeeled	Whole, peeled
Fancy and Choice	$0.31	$0.28	$0.34	$0.99	$1.10	$1.04
Choice and Standard	.36	.30	.29	.98	.77	1.01
Standard and Seconds	.15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Seconds and Water	.12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Standard and Water	.....	.....	.....	1.29	.....	.....
Standard and Solid Pack Pie	.....	.....	.....	1.24	.....	.....

OPA Amends Price Regulations, Schedules, and Orders to Meet Requirements of the 1944 Stabilization Extension Act

All OPA price regulations, schedules and orders have been amended with respect to changes in business practices as required by the Stabilization Extension Act of 1944, the Office of Price Administration announced August 25.

The action taken in Supplementary Order 95, effective August 25, amends each price regulation, schedule or order issued by the national, regional or district OPA.

The Stabilization Extension Act requires that OPA make no changes in the business practices, cost practices or methods, or means or aid to distribution established in any industry except where such action is affirmatively found by OPA to be necessary to prevent circumvention or evasion of any regulation, order, price schedule, or requirement under the Act.

The language of the original act, the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942, was interpreted by OPA to mean that the agency could not change any business practice, cost practice or method, or means or aid to distribution established in any industry except where such change was necessary to prevent evasion of a regulation or of the Act.

The Act of 1944 adds but one requirement, which is that OPA must affirmatively find that a change in an established business practice is necessary to prevent evasion of a regulation or of the Act. Previously, OPA could require such a change, where necessary, without an affirmative finding.

OPA pointed out that no change is necessary under this new requirement in existing regulations because the agency has based necessary changes in business practices on affirmative findings even though they have not always been affirmatively stated. Under the supplementary order and related action by supplementary statements of consideration an affirmative finding is incorporated into the statement of considerations, statement of reasons or opinion of each regulation, schedule or order, and in the preamble of each letter-order previously issued by the Office of Price Administration.

SURPLUS PROPERTY BILL

(Continued from page 8357)

tural commodities in such a manner as to prevent these excess supplies from being dumped on the market in a disorderly manner and disrupting the market prices for agricultural commodities.

"(b) The Board shall not exercise any of its powers under this Act with relation to disposal of surplus cotton or woolen goods except with the approval in writing of the War Food Administrator or his successor.

"No department or agency of the Federal Government shall sell or otherwise dispose of surplus cotton or woolen goods except in accordance with the orders and regulations of the Board, approved in writing as hereinbefore provided by the War Food Administrator or his successor."

During the opening Senate general debate on August 23, Senator Aiken of Vermont introduced an amendment to this section specifically to include processed foods under the proposed WFA exclusive authority. On August 24 the Senate approved the Aiken amendment covering processed foods without extended debate.

When this section is considered with the Senate provision for industry advisory committees favorably reported to the Senate (see INFORMATION LETTER, No. 990, p. 8348), there seems to be a fair possibility that at least the basic thought underlying the prior separate surplus food proposals may be included in the final surplus legislation.

Senator Johnson of Colorado, one of the sponsors of the Senate bill, declared in his opening statement that the Senate bill takes the middle road between quick dumping and extreme withholding of surplus property. He said that this bill "does not provide for a 'fire sale.' It does not provide for dumping. Neither does it provide for withholding. In this bill, we have attempted to establish safeguards in the orderly disposal of surplus, safeguards to protect the social, political, and economic life of the Nation."

Acting on this philosophy, the Senate Military Affairs Committee recommended its bill providing for a policy-making Surplus Property Board representative of all interested groups, industry advisory committees to assist each disposal agency, protection of small business, anti-monopoly safeguards, and preferences to other Federal agencies, local governments, and medical and educational institutions in disposal of surplus. As a consequence, the Senate bill is generally more restrictive than the Colmer Bill.

While the House and Senate have been acting on surplus legislation, the House Ways and Means Committee has been rewriting the Senate-approved George Bill. No report has yet been issued by the House Committee as the LETTER goes to press, but it is reported that a determined effort to provide new Federal unemployment compensation standards was defeated in committee. Although the George Bill provision leaving State standards in effect is reported to remain unchanged, it is understood that the committee has made other substantial changes, details of which are not yet definitely known. The bill is expected to be reported by the Committee to the House by August 26.

Further Conference Asked on Skid-Pallet Standardization

A further conference on the proposal to standardize pallets and skids is planned as the result of the preliminary conference which was held on August 16 at the U. S. Department of Commerce under the auspices of the National Bureau of Standards.

At the preliminary conference, representatives of the Navy Department described the tests they had made during wartime conditions, but it was made clear that the suggested standardization had reference to post-war commercial handling of shipments rather than to the handling of purchases made only by the Government.

Discussions by representatives of the railroads, trucking companies, warehouse operators and owners, and others who participated in the conference brought out that detailed study of conditions under which skids and pallets could be used is necessary before it could be determined whether standardization is desirable and feasible. As a result of the preliminary discussion, it was suggested to the National Bureau of Standards that another meeting be called with more complete representation of the industries and trades that are interested in and would be affected by the standardization proposal.

Urges Home Tomato Canning

The War Food Administration is encouraging the increased home canning of tomatoes in 14 States because the WFA says "that U. S. civilians will receive about 45 per cent less commercially canned whole tomatoes and tomato juice from the 1944 pack than was available in the period prior to rationing."

States in which the home canning of tomatoes will be stressed include: Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Missouri.

WFA'S PLAN FOR DISPOSING OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED FOOD SURPLUSES IS DISCUSSED BY BRENNER IN TRADE SPEECH

Official Assures Industry that Normal Markets Will Be Disrupted as Little as Possible

M. L. Brenner, Chief of the War Food Administration's Office of Distribution Procurement and Price Support Branch, in a speech on August 28 before the National Industrial Stores Association at Cincinnati, Ohio, reaffirmed WFA's policy that it will disrupt the normal trade channels as little as possible in the disposal of government-owned food surpluses. Mr. Brenner, whose branch will handle most of the work of selling these government food surpluses, points out in the following statements (which are directly quoted from his speech) just how the WFA intends to carry out this program:

"The sale of food from Government-owned stocks into civilian trade channels is a step in preparing for peace. It doesn't mean that the war is over or that we can let down in production but it does mean that we are trying to avoid some things that happened after World War I. For instance, back in 1918 and 1919 the French needed food. The food was delivered to them by one branch of our Government. When the war ended the Army had food that it didn't want to ship back to the United States. This was given to the French Republic. The French Republic turned it over to the French trade. France needed money so the food was re-exported to the United States where it helped to break the market. In addition, foods stored in this country for war purposes were 'dumped' in large quantities on a market that could not absorb them at reasonable prices. We don't want that to happen again. Commodities overseas, as well as reserves here at home, will be allocated for relief feeding. Government stocks in this country are being constantly reviewed and pared closely to known requirements.

"We must keep up our reserves, however. We can't take chances on having ships wait on food. But it is equally dangerous, especially to our economic structure, to hold commodities too long and then have to dump them on a market that is trying to adjust to peacetime conditions. Such a procedure would be a loss to the Government and disaster to the trade. To avoid this, Government-owned foods that can be sold now are being offered to the trade. In doing so, the War Food Administration's Office of Distribution is following the policy of: (1) Disrupting the normal trade channels as little as possible. (2) Obtaining the maximum price for the commodities sold.

"With this as a definite policy, it is impossible to set up a single procedure that will govern all sales. Methods of sale must be flexible. The nature and quantity of the commodity, its location and condition, the state of the market at the time it is offered for sale, and any number of other factors must be considered in determining the pattern to be followed in offering the food for sale.

"During this period of relatively short supply and accelerated demand it has been found practicable to offer some commodities first to the original vendor or processor at ceiling prices less the usual trade discounts and reasonable allowances for relabeling or repackaging. Original vendors or processors know the products, are equipped to handle them, and have established trade outlets for marketing them. Any quantity remaining after such sale is offered on the same terms to all processors of the same or like commodities. In both instances the offers are made directly to the respective processors or vendors and not on a competitive-bid basis. This procedure makes use of the normal distributive channels and it recognizes the food industry's responsibility in helping to move the commodity into civilian trade channels with a minimum of disturbance to the trade. Sales are also being made at times through the services of established food brokers.

"Another procedure may be followed when a product is out of condition but can be reconditioned or used in the making of another product. In such instances, the offer may be made to the industry that can use the commodity. The sale may be by negotiation directly with representatives of the industry or it may be offered on a competitive bid basis. Small or out-of-position lots may be offered in somewhat the same way.

"At times bids or negotiations may be limited to an area where the product is located or sales may be limited to a certain trade group as a means of aiding in the production of other commodities badly needed in the war effort. The recent sale of tomato catsup and puree to fish packers who were filling Government contracts is an example. These packers needed the commodities if they were to fill war orders.

"Almost every sale presents some new angle or problem, and procedure must of necessity be kept flexible enough to adjust to each condition. Selling food from Government stocks now on a 'short' market is one thing and selling from Government stocks after the war on a 'long' market might be quite another. But if the procedure is kept flexible it can be adjusted to new situations. By selling foods that are not needed now to meet war requirements and by turning our stocks, we are preparing for the bigger job after the war when more foods may be in surplus and the market may not be as good."

1944 Canners Directory Mailed to N. C. A. Members

The 1944 edition of the "Canners Directory," compiled by the National Canners Association, is being distributed to members and to firms who used advertising space. Non-members and other interested parties may purchase copies at $2 each. The directory lists the names of canners, their addresses, plant locations, and the commodities they pack. It includes the names of officers of the National Association and of State, regional, and commodity canners associations. Officers and members of the Canning Machinery and Supplies and National Food Brokers Associations also are listed.

Californa Sardine Pack

Deliveries of California sardines to processing plants during the week ended August 12 totaled 7,928 tons, against 8,214 in the corresponding week last season. Pack of sardines during the week was 58,915 cases. The following table shows the sardine deliveries by districts and the pack by can sizes for the current season as compared with 1943:

	Season to Aug. 12, 1944	Season to Aug. 14, 1943
TONNAGE:	Tons	Tons
Northern district	3,449	7,423
Central district	4,765	6,820
Southern district	.....	.....
Total	8,214	14,243
PACK:		
1-lb. oval	33,168	50,586
1-lb. tall	24,320	31,338
½-lb. fillet	402	8,345
½-lb. round, 96's	1,350	1,053
5-oz. 100's	.....	1,567
Miscellaneous	901	3,070
Total	60,141	95,959

Cut in Tin Plate Scheduled

Tin plate production scheduled for the fourth quarter of 1944 will be 125,000 tons smaller than the third quarter output, the War Production Board announced August 21.

About 750,000 tons of tin mill products are scheduled for production in the last three months of this year, WPB officials said. This compares with the production of 875,000 tons in the third quarter, 825,000 tons in the second quarter and 627,000 tons in the first quarter. Of the 750,000 tons slated for fourth quarter production, 148,000 will be exported, while the remainder will be reserved for domestic and Canadian use, WPB said.

INFORMATION LETTER

WFA Announces Reorganization of Fruit and Vegetable Branch

The War Food Administration announced August 24 a reorganization of the Office of Distribution's fruit and vegetable branch placing all fruit sections under a fruit marketing division and all vegetable sections under a vegetable marketing division.

The new divisions replace the processed marketing division which formerly administered both processed fruit and vegetable programs, and the fresh marketing division which formerly administered both fresh fruit and vegetable programs. Under the new setup, the fruit marketing division will administer both fresh and processed fruit programs and the vegetable marketing division, both fresh and processed vegetable programs.

Donald F. McMillen has been named acting chief of the fruit marketing division while Leonard S. Fenn will be acting chief of the vegetable marketing division. Both divisions will be under the direction of E. A. Meyer, chief of the fruit and vegetable branch, and Paul M. Williams, assistant chief.

The canned fruit and vegetable section, formerly headed by Merritt Greene, has been re-formed into two new sections. Under the new arrangement, Mr. Greene will be in charge of the canned and frozen vegetable section while George N. Pfarr will head the canned and frozen fruit section. All the other sections in the branch remain unchanged. WFA also announced that Harry K. Taylor will handle recommendations on priority applications for both fresh and processed fruit and vegetable facilities.

Alaska Salmon Pack Report

	1943 to Aug. 14	1944 to Aug. 12
REGIONS	*Cases*	*Cases*
Western and Central Alaska	3,253,187	2,783,193
Southeastern Alaska	1,116,325	860,365
Total	4,369,512	3,643,558
VARIETIES		
Red	1,935,740	1,515,592
Pink	1,624,082	1,264,540
Chum	680,076	740,260
Coho	82,732	89,648
King	46,282	33,518
Total	4,369,512	3,643,558

Kraut Packers Meet

At the annual meeting of the National Kraut Packers Association held at Toledo, Ohio, on August 16, President Alden C. Smith submitted a statistical report on production of cabbage for kraut which indicated a production of about 114,820 tons in 1944 as compared with about 170,160 tons in a normal year. Of this year's production, it is estimated that half will be taken by the Government.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Alden C. Smith, Shiocton, Wis.; Vice President, John Stroup, Phelps, N. Y.; Secretary and Treasurer, Roy Irons, Clyde, Ohio; Trustees, E. D. Naylor, Lyons, N. Y.; Herbert Pressing, Norwalk, Ohio; A. E. Siessman, Fremont, Ohio; Martin Meeter, Lansing, Ill.; A. A. Huppert, Franksville, Wis.

Pack Statistics Mailed

Statistics showing the 1943 pack of vegetables and fruits have been compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics, and issued in two publications, copies of which have been mailed to all members.

The pack of canned vegetables is shown in "Canned Food Pack Statistics: 1943, Part 1—Vegetables," and the pack for canned fruits in "Canned Food Pack Statistics: 1943, Part 2—Fruits." Additional copies may be obtained on request.

OPA to Set Blueberry Prices

Ceiling prices to be established soon on processed blueberries will permit processors to reflect a price for raw fruit up to 18 cents per pound for blueberries grown in the New England States, the Office of Price Administration has announced. This is 6 cents per pound higher than the raw fruit costs included in last year's ceilings. Processors of blueberries produced in other States will be permitted to reflect no more than last year's grower prices. Specific retail increase per can of blueberries cannot be exactly determined until ceiling prices for canned blueberries are announced, OPA said. The agency added, however, that demands of the armed forces for canned blueberries indicate that very little of the country's 1944 canned blueberry production will be available to civilians.

Wage Order Poster Available

A wage order poster for the fruit and vegetable packing and farm products assembling industry is now available, according to the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division of the Department of Labor, and must be kept posted in all establishments in this industry. A minimum wage of 40 cents an hour was established for this industry, effective on May 22.

As pointed out in the INFORMATION LETTER for April 29, this industry is defined as the "assembling and preparing for market of fresh fruits and vegetables, and other farm and related products, including wild and domesticated animals other than those for processing into food for human consumption or animal consumption." It does not include "any product included in the canned fruits and vegetables and related industry."

Meat Canners Meet With WFA

Canned meat requirements for U. S. military and Lend-lease, termination of government contracts, and selling of government-owned food stocks were among the subjects discussed when the Meat Canning Industry Advisory Committee met on August 22 with officials of the War Food Administration.

In line with WFA's policy of increasing government procurement during season's of pack production, a heavier take of canned meat can be expected in the next few months, and government purchases of beef and pork will be stepped up, the Committee was advised. A task group was appointed to study the problems of contract termination. The necessity of using normal trade channels in the sale of government-owned canned meat surpluses was re-emphasized.

Solder Restrictions Eased

Revision of War Production Board Order M-43 permits the use of solder containing up to 50 per cent tin for three additional purposes: (1) refrigeration equipment, (2) radio and radar equipment, and (3) for the manufacture and repair of any type of indicating, recording, measuring, or controlling instrument and their associate control valves, excluding the manufacture and repair of gas meters.

Oyster Weight Hearing

A hearing on the proposed standard fill of container for canned oysters was held by the Food and Drug Administration of the Federal Security Agency on August 22 and 23. Government witnesses introduced evidence in support of the proposed drained weight of 7.5 ounces for the No. 1 can. A representative of the oyster canners in the Pacific Northwest described the kind of oysters and method of packing in that area, and pointed out that the proposed regulation would, if adopted, necessitate changes in their method of canning. The proposed regulation was published in the INFORMATION LETTER for July 22.